

PG:82A-41

c. 1711-1860s

Woodyard Archeological Site
(Darnalls Delight, Woodyard Hist. Site)
Woodyard Road (MD 233)
Woodyard
Private

The site is presently occupied by a dilapidated, L-shaped brick house built about 1870, apparently on the site of an older structure. The main facade of the present house faces east; in the northeast corner of the basement, an intersecting wall is visible. Following the line of the east facade to the north and south, probings indicate brick rubble and possibly a brick wall below the ground surface. To the east of the house is a double line of boxwoods, certainly marking a former walkway; their size suggests greater antiquity than the present house and they do not align with the present doorway. The present structure is built of two distinct types of brick. The body of the house is of moulded brick, with detailing of machine-made brick; the disparity suggests that the present building was erected from the brick of an earlier structure. The site is largely overgrown, and there appear to be several feet of topsoil over most of the walls. Thus the below-surface site has probably been well protected. There is also reported to be a graveyard on the property.

This site was originally patented as "Darnall's Delight" for Colonel Henry Darnall in 1683. Sometime before 1711, Darnall built a large brick mansion known as "The Woodyard." In 1765, Darnall's Delight was purchased by Stephen West, who added a large wing to the brick house. Throughout the Revolutionary War, West was involved in industry (weapons and clothing manufacturing, as well as brewery and distillery pursuits); it is possible that some or all of these activities occurred at Darnall's Delight. The brick house, The Woodyard, burned just after the Civil War. The site of the former Woodyard Plantation is of significance to the early history of Prince Georges County and to Maryland as a whole. In particular, the site's association with two notable individuals (Colonel Henry Darnall, a political and financial leader in early colonial Maryland, and Stephen West, a Revolutionary War industrialist) adds significance to this important archeological site.

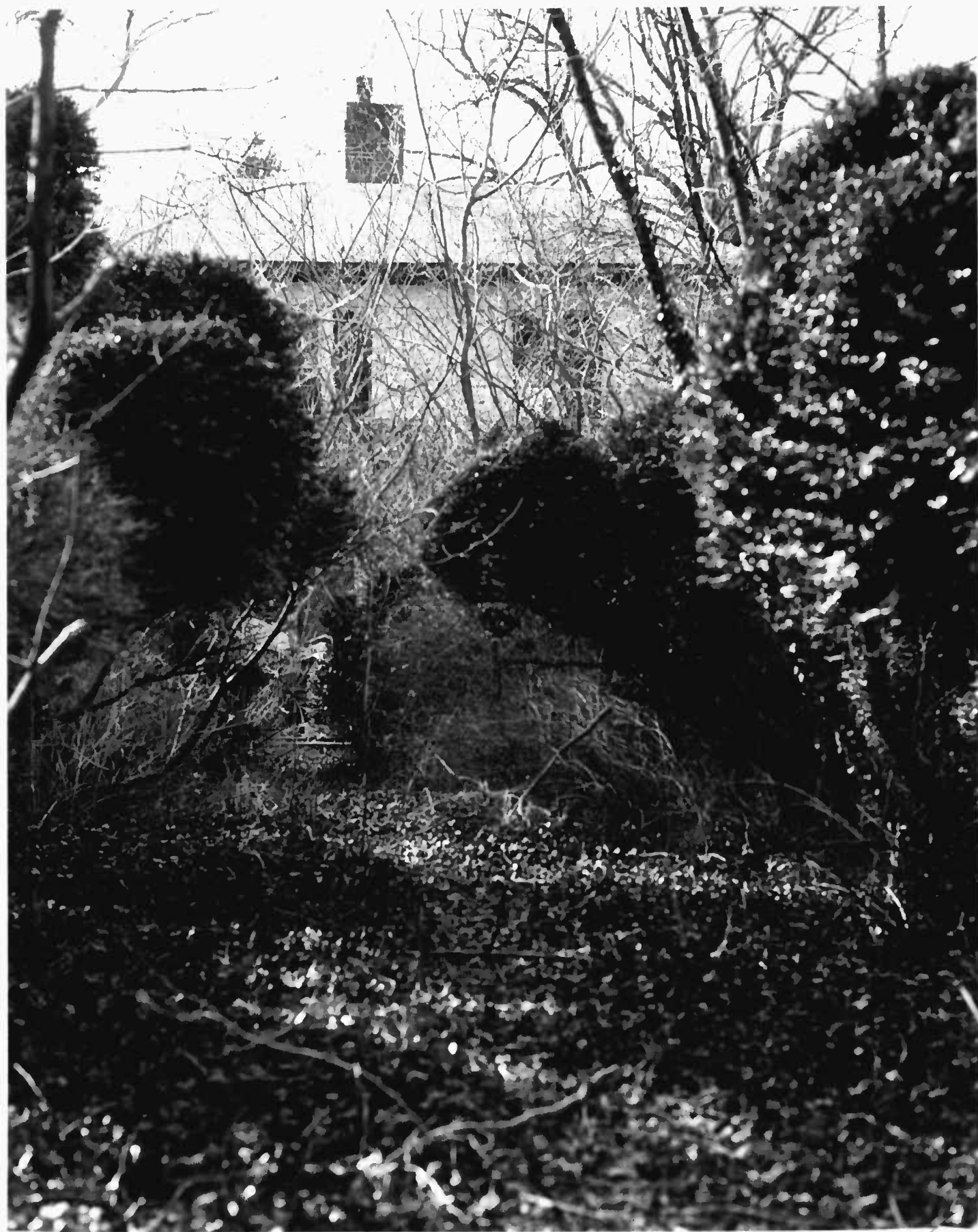
PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY
HISTORIC SITES SUMMARY SHEET

P.G. County Survey # 77-9 Date ca. 1700
Building Name Woodyard Archaeological Site
Location Woodyard Rd. at Rosaryville Rd. (east sector), Clinton
Open to Public yes x no

The Woodyard Archaeological Site is presently unoccupied and overgrown. The site was originally patented as "Darnall's Delight" for Colonel Henry Darnall in 1683, and sometime before 1711 he built a large brick mansion which came to be known as The Woodyard. In 1765, Darnall's Delight with its brick mansion was purchased by Stephen West and it became his home. West went into the manufacturing of weapons before the Declaration of Independence, and continued through the Revolution. It is possible that the weapon factory was on the site of The Woodyard; contemporary reports indicate that West ran an impressive clothing manufactory, as well as brewery and distillery at the Woodyard, and sold items of clothing to the patriot forces during the Revolutionary War.

It was probably West who added a very large wing to Darnall's brick house, which likely served as part of the industrial complex. West's descendants lived at the Woodyard for nearly 100 years after his death in the 1780's, and in the summer of 1814, the Woodyard served as temporary headquarters of Brigadier General William H. Winder during the British advance on Washington. The house was destroyed by fire after the Civil War, and a new house was quickly erected in its place. This second house, built ca. 1870, stood in dilapidated condition until recent years.

NOTE:
LOCATIONAL INFO. RESTRICTED



P.G.
#82A-41

THE WOODYARD HISTORIC ARCHEOLOGICAL SITE



P.G.
#82A-41

THE WOODWARD HISTORIC ARCHEOLOGICAL SITE



NAME LATE 19THC HOUSE ON "THE WOODYARD" SITE
LOCATION WOODYARD + ROSARYVILLE RDS. CLINTON, MD

P.G.
#82A-41

FACADE

PHOTO TAKEN 1/17/74 MDWYER